

INTHEKNOW

Friday, 16 September 2022

www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk

Parent/Carer Communication with Fairfax Academy – ongoing extreme technical issues

Thank you to all our parents/carers for your continued understanding and patience as we worked with external services to resolve our communication and technology issues.

We are pleased to confirm that our Academy telephone lines are now connected again. However, please be reminded that the Academy does have a limited number of phone lines; voice mail messages are checked regularly. We would ask that non-urgent enquiries are made by email to post@fairfax.fmat.co.uk. This post inbox is regularly monitored. Please be advised that staff at Fairfax Academy will respond to queries within 48 hours.



In addition, our tills in The Refectory and ParentPay were working again earlier this week. A separate communication about ParentPay has already been sent this week, please do refer to this for further information.

Parent App

Please be reminded that we have now moved over to a new school management system called Bromcom. This means that parents/carers will no longer be able to access current information on the SIMS Parent app.

A new parent app, 'My Child At School', will be launched as soon as we have fully completed the move. We are working hard to make this available for you to access this half term, and will continue to keep you updated on our progress towards the full launch.

In the meantime, if you wish to find out information regarding your child, please contact your child's Head of Year/Assistant Head of Year via email.

Fairfax Examination Results 2022

Congratulations to all our GCSE, BTEC and A-Level students! We are hugely proud of all the hard work and achievements of our students! Our teachers and staff worked tirelessly to ensure student progress, and we wish all of our students every success in their next phase of education or training or employment. **#makingfairfaxproud**

Opening Time and The Refectory Breakfast Provision

A reminder notice: The Refectory is open to students at 08:00 and snacks, breakfast pastries, hot and cold drinks will be available to purchase. **All other areas of the Academy are not open due to there**

being no supervision available. Students are advised to plan their journey to school to arrive no earlier than 08:00, and students are allowed on site via Pedestrian Gate 3 on Fairfax Road, but **must** remain in The Refectory only until 08:20. Pedestrian Gate 1 on Reddicap Heath Road and Pedestrian Gate 2 on Fairfax Road both open at 08:20.

Open Evening 2022

Please be reminded that our annual Open Evening will take place on Tuesday, 20 September 2022 18:00-20:30. Permission letters are available in the Student Support Centre for student guides and faculty helpers.

Parking – Fairfax Road

Could parents/carers please be mindful of local residents when parking, and ensure residents' driveways are not blocked.

Milestone Ladder – Merits

In July, we were pleased to share with you that all students who were owed milestone rewards had received recognition for their achievements. At the end of the summer term, over 2000 individual rewards were awarded in special assemblies and tutor time. Well done everyone! #makingfairfaxproud

Our changes to the merit system have now been completed, and the new milestone ladders have been published. Students in Year 7 will start on the milestone ladder, and will be awarded ARKS merits by staff. Years 8, 9 and 10 will continue on the new milestone ladder, starting at their current total. Year 11, 12 and 13 have new tailored milestone ladders. More information will be shared by Heads of Year and tutors shortly. Please see the attached Milestone Ladder overview for more detail.

Extra-curricular Clubs

Please see the attached calendar overviews of our school clubs. All clubs are open to students, there is no requirement to book a place. If you are interested in joining a club or you need more information, please see the relevant teacher, or email ff-clubs@fairfax.fmat.co.uk.

Attendance Matters

Well done to our students whose attendance has been high. A reminder that attendance should be 97%.

Attendance improves achievement!


Please support Fairfax in maintaining a high level.

Attendance CSAWS

Please be reminded that CSAWS (Central School Attendance and Welfare Service) may conduct a home visit to any family whose child has not attended school and no valid reason has been provided.

Term Time Holiday Requests

A reminder notice: parents/carers are kindly reminded that Fairfax Academy cannot authorise holiday leave during term time. Please be advised doing so may result in penalty charges.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

At Fairfax Academy we believe that excellent attendance and punctuality are the key to success. A missed school day is a lost opportunity to learn. Students who attend school regularly have been shown to achieve higher grades than students who do not have regular attendance.

ABSENCE

Children are required by law to attend school 190 days per year and the Government advise that students' attendance should be at least 95%. However, **95% attendance equates to 10 missed days of school: a massive 50 lessons!** Research has shown that students missing 20 days of school performed a whole grade lower in their exams than similar ability students with good attendance.

PUNCTUALITY

Poor punctuality can have a significant impact on learning time. Across a school year, being **5 minutes late per day results in a loss of 3 days learning per year**. Being **15 minutes late** every day will result in **10 lost days**.

Our school day starts at 8:35am and students should be through the school gate at this time. Students that are late into school will be issued with sanctions in line with our academy Behaviour and Discipline Policy.

APPOINTMENTS

Wherever possible appointments should be made out of school time. We understand that at times appointments in the school day are unavoidable. Please provide evidence of the appointment in advance, so that we can amend our school records, and advise the school who will be collecting your child during the school day.

ATTENDANCE

At Fairfax Academy we are committed to challenging poor attendance. In cases where a student begins to develop a pattern of absence, the academy will advise the parents/carers that we require an improvement in attendance.

When attendance fails to improve, the school reluctantly takes the line that legal action has to be considered, and the Court Section in Birmingham becomes involved. So far this academic year, seven cases have been heard, and either a fixed penalty has been issued, or a court appearance has been determined as an appropriate course of action.

HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME

Please keep in mind the cost to your child's education should they miss school. Please do not book holidays in term time. Holidays in term time will not be authorised.

95% ATTENDANCE = 10 missed days = 50 lessons!	5 MINUTES LATE PER DAY = 3 lost days learning per year	AVOID BOOKING holidays in term time
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Parent/Carer Calendar – Autumn Term 2022

Please see the attached calendar updated for Autumn Term1.

2022-23 Heads of Year Information:

Head of Year 7	Mrs Rose
Head of Year 8	Ms Ahmed-Lockley
Assistant Head of Year	Mr Rainbow
Head of Year 9	Mrs Colbourne
Head of Year 10	Miss Dowell
Assistant Head of Year	Mr Clark
Head of Year 11	Mr Ravenscroft
Assistant Head of Year	Mrs Barker
Assistant Head of Sixth Form	Miss Gardner
SENDCO	Mrs Corbett
Assistant SENDCO	Miss Panesar

2021-22 Heads of House Information:

Coventry Head of House	Miss Blake
Assistant Head of House	Mr Thompson
Kenilworth Head of House	Mrs Hunter-Stott
Assistant Head of House	Mrs Sharratt
Stratford Head of House	Mr Porter
Assistant Head of House	Miss Sutton
Warwick Head of House	Mr Carty
Assistant Head of House	Mrs Day

Term Dates 2022-23

A reminder notice: please be reminded of Fairfax's term dates for 2022-23.

Autumn Term 2022

(Training Day Monday, 5 September 2022)*

(Training Day Tuesday, 6 September 2022)*

- Term Starts: Wednesday, 7 September 2022
(Bank Holiday – State Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II Monday, 19 September 2022)
*(*Training Day Monday, 3 October 2022)*
- Half Term: Monday, 24 October 2022 to Friday, 28 October 2022
- Term Ends: Friday, 16 December 2022

Spring Term 2023

*(*Training Day Tuesday, 3 January 2023)*

- Term Starts: Wednesday, 4 January 2023
- Half Term: Monday, 20 February 2023 to Friday, 24 February 2023
- Term Ends: Friday, 31 March 2023

Summer Term 2023

- Term Starts: Monday, 17 April 2023
(Bank Holiday Monday, 1 May 2023)
- Half Term: Monday 29, May 2023 to Friday, 2 June 2023
- Term Ends: Friday, 21 July 2023
*(*Training Day Monday, 24 July 2023)*
*(*Training Day Tuesday, 25 July 2023)*

School Shoes

A reminder notice: Year 7 students should be wearing shoes to school. Trainers such as Airforce 1s are not permitted.

From January 2023 **ALL** students in **ALL** year groups are expected to wear shoes also.

Standards Reminder

Punctuality A reminder notice: punctuality is a very important aspect of life. This is a key focus for Fairfax Academy as we prepare our students for the world of work, where there will be high expectations of attendance and punctuality. Registration begins at 08:30, and so we advise students to be in school no later than 08:25. Students who arrive later than 08:30 can expect to receive a same day after school detention for 30 minutes.

Hair A reminder notice: natural hair colours only. Extreme haircuts, including tramlines in haircuts or eyebrows, are not permitted.

Piercings A reminder notice: we allow one small stud in each ear – small hooped earrings are not permitted. Any other piercings are unacceptable and must be removed for school.

Nose Studs A reminder notice: nose studs are not allowed and must be removed for school.

Uniform A reminder notice: students who are unable to conform to our Uniform Policy will be provided with uniform to wear, until the issue can be rectified, and parents will be contacted about this if the need arises. We want our students to have the highest standards and this includes adhering to our Uniform Policy. We thank parents and carers very much for supporting our high expectations.

PRIDE Meeting

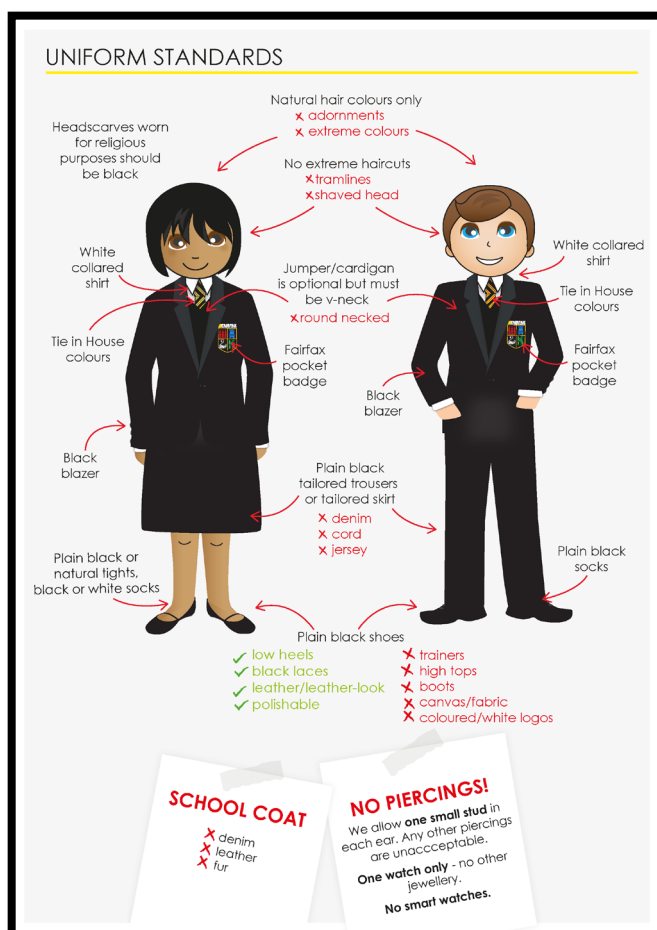
An advance notice: all students are invited to attend our first PRIDE Meeting on Wednesday, 21 September 2021 15:00-16:00 in A24. If your child is interested in getting involved please encourage them to attend or speak to Mrs Lam or Mrs Williams.

School Council Meeting

An advance notice: all students are invited to attend our first School Council Meeting on Thursday, 29 September 2022 15:00-16:00 in the Library. If your child is interested in getting involved please encourage them to attend or speak to Ms Lowell or Mrs Williams.

Equalities Group Meeting

An advance notice: all students are invited to attend our second Equalities Group Meeting on Tuesday, 4 October 2022 15:00-16:00 in the Library. If your child is interested in getting involved please encourage them to attend or speak to Miss Gardner, Miss Williams or Mrs Williams.



YEAR 7

An advance notice: all Year 7 students will be sitting a Progress Test in English and a Progress Test in Mathematics. Both Progress Tests are done on paper and are completed in lessons. The results from the tests provide objective data on your child's current attainment that we can use, along with their SATs results to ensure that they are being challenged at the appropriate level. At the end of the year, your child will sit another progress test in English and Maths which will provide us with objective data on how much progress has been made during the year. Students cannot prepare for these tests and they should simply try their best.

- 7F – English on Tuesday, 20 September and Mathematics on Monday, 26 September 2022
 - 7X – English on Thursday, 22 September and Mathematics on Monday, 26 September 2022
- Students should ensure that they have a pencil, a rubber and a calculator with them for these tests.

An advance notice: Year 7 Parents/Carers are invited for 'Coffee & Cake' with the Principal on Thursday, 29 September 18:00-19:00 or Friday, 30 September 11:40-12:40. Please confirm your attendance by emailing post@fairfax.fmat.co.uk.

An advance notice: the Year 7 Parent Information Evening with House Tutors is on Tuesday, 4 October at 18:00 in the Hall.

An advance notice: following the Year 7 Parent Information Evening, there is a 'new parent' PTFA evening on Tuesday, 4 October at 19:00 in The Refectory. Please join us, email ff-ptfa@fairfax.fmat.co.uk to confirm your attendance.

YEAR 8

An advance notice: invited students will shortly receive a letter and information from Ms Ahmed-Lockley about the reward trip to Waterworld on Thursday, 13 October.

An advance notice: Dates for 'Coffee & Cake' with the Principal will be shared very soon.

YEAR 9

An advance notice: Dates for 'Coffee & Cake' with the Principal will be shared very soon.

YEAR 10

An advance notice: Dates for 'Coffee & Cake' with the Principal will be shared very soon.

YEAR 11

A careers notice: the slides shared in the Year 11 careers assembly on Thursday, 8 September have been emailed to parents/carers. Please read the presentation carefully, so that you are aware of your Post 16 options.

[Welcome to Connexions \(fairfax.bham.sch.uk\)](http://fairfax.bham.sch.uk)

Thank you to parents/carers who attended the Y11 Parent Information Evening on Tuesday. The presentation is available on the school website:

[PowerPoint Presentation \(fairfax.bham.sch.uk\)](http://fairfax.bham.sch.uk)

A reminder notice: the Y11 Silver Practice DofE expedition will take place on Friday, 30 September and Saturday, 1 October 2022. Thank you to parents/carers who attend the Y11 Silver DofE meeting on Tuesday. Please refer to the expedition parent/carer letter for further details and information. If your child is interested in getting involved please encourage them speak to Mr Hobbs or Miss Clarke.

An advance notice: Dates for 'Coffee & Cake' with the Principal will be shared very soon.

YEAR 12

A careers notice: the slides shared in the Sixth Form careers assembly on Friday, 9 September have been emailed to parents/carers. Please read the presentation carefully, so that you are aware of your future options.

[Your Future Your Choice \(fairfax.bham.sch.uk\)](http://fairfax.bham.sch.uk)

An advance notice: Dates for 'Coffee & Cake' with the Principal will be shared very soon.

An advance notice: the Year 12 Parent Information Evening is on Tuesday, 27 September 2022 at 18:00 in the hall.

An advance notice: Private Study in period 5 can be used as 'Home Study'. Students who have Private Study in period 5 will be permitted to leave the school site at lunchtime provided that they sign out in the Sixth Form prior to leaving.

YEAR 13

A careers notice: the slides shared in the Sixth Form careers assembly on Friday, 9 September have been emailed to parents/carers. Please read the presentation carefully, so that you are aware of your future options.

[Your Future Your Choice \(fairfax.bham.sch.uk\)](http://fairfax.bham.sch.uk)

An advance notice: Dates for 'Coffee & Cake' with the Principal will be shared very soon.

A reminder notice: Private Study in period 5 can be used as 'Home Study'. Students who have Private Study in period 5 will be permitted to leave the school site at lunchtime provided that they sign out in the Sixth Form prior to leaving.